

# CORRECTIONS TO JURISDICTIONAL AND NESTED REDD+ (JNR) VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION PROCESS V3.0

Publication date: 14 March 2025

This document provides corrections applicable to the *Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ (JNR) Validation and Verification Process*, v3.0. Such corrections are effective on the date of publication. Jurisdictional proponents and validation/verification bodies (VVBs) must apply and interpret the *REDD+ (JNR) Validation and Verification Process*, v3.0 document consistent with the corrections & set out in this document.

Correction / Clarification	Description	Document and Section Reference	Effective Date
Correction 1	Step 4: JNR Expert Panel Peer Review is removed	Sub-section 2.5 STEP 4: JNR Expert Panel Peer Review	Effective immediately
Correction 2	Sub-section 3.3 Technical Expertise Requirements is added	Section 3. Validation and Verification Requirements	Effective immediately

## I. Correction 1: Step 4: JNR Expert Panel Peer Review removed

**Correction: Step 4: Removed JNR Expert Panel Peer Review of the JNR Validation and Verification Process, v3.0**

### ~~2.5—Step 4: JNR Expert Panel Peer Review~~

~~2.5.1—A peer review by a JNR expert panel is required as part of the validation of a jurisdictional element, or the revalidation of an updated jurisdictional baseline at the time of verification. Where a jurisdictional baseline is not updated at verification, peer review is not required.~~

~~2.5.2—The purpose of the peer review is to evaluate the appropriateness and scientific rigor of any underlying data and assumptions used in developing the jurisdictional element, including, but not limited to, those related to development of the baseline and monitoring plan. The~~

peer review also provides important local perspectives on the process used for developing the jurisdictional element. The scope of the peer review is set out in further detail in the *VCS JNR Peer Review Report Template*.

2.5.3 The JNR expert panel shall consist of three JNR experts, to include one local expert and two international experts.

2.5.4 As set out in Section **Error! Reference source not found.** above, the jurisdictional proponent shall submit one or more proposed local JNR experts to the VCSA when requesting to be listed for public stakeholder consultation. The VCSA reviews the list of proposed local JNR experts and selects an appropriately qualified expert to serve on the JNR expert panel, in accordance with the procedure set out in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**

2.5.5 The VCSA also invites two appropriately qualified international experts to serve on the JNR expert panel. JNR experts shall complete a conflict of interest form and same shall be accepted by VCSA before they are formally accepted to participate on the JNR expert panel. International JNR experts are approved in accordance with the procedure set out in Section **Error! Reference source not found.**

2.5.6 The VCSA contracts all members of the JNR expert panel, using its standard agreement, to undertake the peer review. The VCSA appoints one of the three experts to coordinate the peer review, though it maintains overall responsibility for managing the panel peer review.

2.5.7 The VCSA shall provide the expert panel with the validation/verification body's draft validation or verification report and the most recent version of the jurisdictional element documentation.

2.5.8 The expert panel shall undertake its review of the jurisdictional element and produce a report using the *VCS JNR Peer Review Report Template*. The report shall be provided to the VCSA, who in turn shall provide it to the jurisdictional proponent and validation/verification body.

2.5.9 The jurisdictional proponent shall take due account of the peer review report, which means it will need to either update the jurisdictional element documentation to address the findings in the report or demonstrate their insignificance or irrelevance.

The validation/verification body shall resume its work on its assessment of the jurisdictional element. In light of the peer review report, it may raise new findings or amend any previous findings. The jurisdictional proponent shall address such findings and shall also demonstrate to the validation/verification body what action it has taken in respect of any findings raised in the JNR peer review report. The validation/verification body shall then produce a final validation or verification report, which it shall provide, together with the latest version of the jurisdictional element documentation, to the VCSA.

## Background:

Version 3.0 of the *JNR Validation and Verification Process* was originally published in October 2013 and has since been superseded by version 4.0 (published April 2021) and version 4.1 (published December 2022). Version 4.0 became effective upon its release for new programs requesting registration. Version 4 of the JNR Framework removed the requirement to convene an expert panel to support the review and validation of submitted JNR programs and replaced it with technical expertise requirements that the validation/verification body must comply with to review submitted JNR programs. As such, there are no existing expert panels that projects under development using JNR v3.0 can consult.

This Correction updates v3.0 to align with version 4 of both the *VCS Standard* and the JNR Framework in this regard. (Programs that contracted validation prior to 15 April 2021 are allowed to use Version 3.)

Any relevant cross-references or illustrative diagrams should also be interpreted in line with this Correction.

## 2. Correction 2: Added sub-section 3.3 Technical Expertise Requirements

**Correction: Added Sub-section 3.3 Technical Expertise Requirements to Section 3.0 Validation and Verification Requirements of the JNR Validation and Verification Process v3.0**

### 3.3 Technical Expertise Requirements to Section 3.0 Validation and Verification Requirements of the JNR Validation and Verification Process V3.0

3.3.1 The validation/verification team (including any technical experts) must include the following expertise for the validation and/or verification of a jurisdictional element:

1) The combined education and experience of the validation/verification team (including any technical experts) shall cover all of the following topic areas:

- a) Drivers of deforestation and degradation, and related socio-economic issues.
- b) Development and/or assessment of REDD+ baselines and/or FRELs at the jurisdictional scale for relevant activities (i.e., deforestation, degradation and/or enhancements).
- c) Modeling, measuring and monitoring forest carbon stocks and emissions, including remote sensing, GIS and statistical techniques.
- d) Accounting of GHG emission reductions, including estimation of leakage emissions from relevant activities, at the jurisdictional scale.
- e) AFOLU non-permanence risk assessments.

- f) Institutional and legal frameworks relevant to REDD+ programs, baselines and/or FRELs, and nesting.
  - g) Policy, programmatic and/or project GHG mitigation approaches relevant to REDD+ programs.
  - h) Safeguards and benefit-sharing approaches for REDD+ programs.
  - i) Any additional relevant topic areas listed in the VCS Standard for AFOLU experts on REDD, IFM, WRC and/or ARR.
- 2) Be well versed in current scientific thinking and best practices associated with REDD+ program design and implementation, as well as forest carbon accounting and reporting.
- 3) Have regional expertise or experience that may be relevant to the assessment of the particular jurisdictional program or jurisdictional FREL undergoing validation or verification.
- 4) Local expertise and experience specific to the context of the jurisdictional element undergoing validation or verification, at a minimum, for the following topic areas:
- a) Drivers of deforestation and degradation, and related socio-economic issues.
  - b) Institutional and legal frameworks.
  - c) Policy, programmatic and/or project GHG mitigation approaches.
- 5) Validation/verification bodies are required to include members or technical experts that have prior experience in Technical Assessments of FREL/FRLs and/or assessing REDD+ Technical Annexes to BURs under the UNFCCC, reviewing UNFCCC national GHG inventories, or in the development or review of FCPF Emission Reductions Program Document (ERP), Forest Investment Programme (FIP) pilots or another jurisdictional program or jurisdictional FREL under the VCS Program or another GHG program.

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